



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

THE GRAVESTONE APPLE.

One of the best fall apples in all the world, is the "Gravestone apple," so called. It originated in Germany, but is found to flourish well in all the northern sections of the United States, where the apple will flourish, and its introduction to this country resulted in a rich acquisition to our fruits, and the person who did so good a deed should receive due honors from all the lovers of good apples. This person, we learn from Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture for October, was Capt. John DeWolfe, of Dorchester, Mass.

It is possible, and even probable, that it was brought over into New York some time before by some of the Dutch; it is not exactly certain, but it is exactly certain that Capt. DeWolfe did introduce it into New England, and that from his tree it has spread into thousands of nurseries and orchards. In proof of this, the Editor of the Magazine above named, published the following letter from Capt. DeWolfe, which gives in detail, the history of the transaction, which, though a quiet and humble deed, is nevertheless more honorable and more useful, and productive of more real blessing and good to our community, than all the "filibustering" of Walker or any other in this filibustering age.

The Captain's Letter.

DEAR SIR:—As there appeared to be some discrepancy in the account of the origin, name, and time of introduction of the Gravestone apple in this country, I beg leave respectfully to hand you this statement, not that I think there is any special merit in the introduction, as I think we are all bound to do what good we can in promoting and enriching the products of our own soil; neither do I make any pretensions to be a connoisseur in fruits, or vegetables, but this I can say without the fear of contradiction, that in early youth I had a kind of natural instinct or faculty, which enabled me to find the best apple tree in the neighboring orchards, the darkest night that ever was, with as much facility as in ripe years, I could find my way both day and night blindfold, to maintain bowline.

However, if it should be considered that there is merit in such introduction, I see no reason why my dish should not be the right side up, in order to receive what may legitimately fall there; if nothing prior to the following can be shown, then perhaps it may be well to record the fact, viz:—

Being at Copenhagen in the fall of 1825, I noticed at the wharves a number of small craft from Holstein, with fruit, principally apples; I bought some which were recommended as the Gravestone, a very superior apple, high flavored as to the taste and smell. I was so much delighted with this fruit, having never heard of it before, and being desirous of cultivating it in my little garden in Boston, that I requested my friends Messrs. Reynolds & Co. to purchase for me at the nursery two trees of that kind of fruit, and to be sure that they were genuine Gravestones, which they did.

On my arrival in Boston in May following, the trees being seven months out of the ground, I had some doubts as to my being able to make them live. Knowing General Dearborn to be an amateur in trees, I presented him with what I thought to be the best one, and planted the other myself; they both lived and grew very well. About a year afterwards I moved to Bristol R. I. and took my tree with me, and planted it there, and when I left that place several years subsequently, it was in a bearing state.

I was desirous to know the origin of its name, and place, and was informed that it originated in a nobleman's garden in Holstein, near to a family graveyard,—hence the name Gravestone.

PLASTER OF PARIS.

We have frequently recommended the liberal use of Plaster of Paris on our farms and gardens. Every farmer and gardener should have a supply on hand, to meet the many uses to which it may be put. Mr. Geo. Trowbridge of Camden, N. Y., concludes a long article on the constitution of arable soils, and the use of plaster in the following manner:

1. That the atmosphere is a constant source of food for plants.

2. That the most available agent for securing the benefits of this food for plants, is plaster.

3. That, viewed in this light, the value of plaster in agriculture can hardly be overrated.

4. That it may be safely recommended for general use on all soils containing a portion of fermentative matters, and not so compact or wet as to prevent the process of exhalation or absorption.

5. That it should always be applied to the surface of the soil, or at least within the influence of the atmosphere.

6. That it should be sown at an early date in the season, before the period of the most abundant dews and exhalations has commenced.

7. That it should always accompany manures used as a top dressing, or only slightly buried in the soil.

8. That it should be liberally employed about our barnyards, stables, vases, manure heaps, compost beds, and not hovers, in compost, under the supposition that it would hasten fermentation of the mass. Davy has refuted this opinion by direct experiments.

The proper quantity to be used broadcast upon the fields, has been decided by experience, as also by chemical science, to be from one to one and a half bushels per acre.

ASPARAGUS BED—ERROR. In our note last week to friend Sturtevant's query respecting asparagus culture, we are made to say, "plants used in this way will do out in the spring." It should be—"in the third spring." The Vermont winterer will hardly bring yearling plants up to cutting size in the second spring after they are born. Hold on, friend Albert, until the third spring, then "slay and eat."

For the Maine Farmer. GRAPES AND GRAPE VINES.

After one of the most unfavorable seasons for the successful culture of the vine, a word in regard to a few varieties, that have seemed deserving of special attention, may be of interest to your readers. The fact that at our country fair very large and well ripened bunches of Isabella grapes were shown—grown too on a stiff clay soil, not amid city walls, but by one of our largest farmers, ought to be a sufficient guaranty that varieties ripening from a week to a month earlier would succeed in any season.

That New England might and will at some time rival the valley of the Ohio in the production of grapes, the writer has for some time entertained no doubt, and Maine ought at least to raise an abundance for home consumption. Every farmer and every owner of a village lot might grow on sheltered places from wind, a dozen vines with profit, while in cities thickly settled, even as Boston, grapes form the only luxury which the resident can cultivate.

The mode of culture of the grape is less subject to fixed rules, perhaps, than any other branch of fruit. It is certain that the roots of all vines are in friendship with the phosphates, which are cheaply supplied in the form of bones, and it is quite as certain that all good cultivators insist upon having it planted in a soil naturally dry or well underdrained. All vines need autumnal pruning, but not in an equal degree, and in this State nearly all vines should then be thrown upon the ground, and our abundant snows afford a more certain protection than a more southern climate.

With good culture, it will surprise the novice to see how large a supply may be grown from a few vines. In this city we noticed last autumn several vines trained on the end of a house, from which the owner sold grapes to the amount of four dollars. A similar quantity grew in his garden, which unfortunately were the Catawba, and did not ripen, and they have been made to give place to the Diana. The product of a native vine which we noticed this autumn in Massachusetts—rambling at will over a very large apple tree and arbor, was estimated at ten bushels. A letter from the producer of the Sage grape, stated, that without the usual care, the vine had produced nearly twenty bushels of fruit in a season. Notwithstanding the vine begins to bear early, such large crops cannot be obtained until it attains great size, and then a medium crop from a greater number would ensure better quality and greater profit.

These suggestions are designed as additional to an article in the "Farmer," of this date, by "Agricola," although our experience leads us to differ in some of our conclusions, not only in regard to the flavor of the various sorts—for "tastes are different"—but also in the manner of supplying the vines.

In quality no native has yet come to our table quite equal to the Diana. In the nursery it is very difficult of propagation, and vines cannot be afforded by nurserymen at prices corresponding with vines of easy culture, like the Strawberry and Clinton. It also requires much care in the garden, and none should plant this variety, who are not willing to wait and labor several years for a moderate supply of fruit.

The new grape, Rebecca, small, nearly white, with a slightly red cheek, is in quality and hardiness, and earliness, all that is requisite to meet the wants of the general cultivator. But the price of vines is made by one man, who introduces them to notice—which can only be regulated by the rule of supply or demand. Any one who wishes to get a true vine of this or any other new variety, we advise—to be content with a small plant, and pay the regular price, and not buy them at auction, labelled to order.

The Delaware of the finest quality is very small, color of the Catawba, or a shade of darker red, is represented as being exceedingly hardy, easily cultivated, and very early, ripening in Ohio about the middle to the last of August. It has not been proved here. A new white grape, probably a seedling of the Catawba of good size and flavor, ripened with us several days sooner than the Concord, and may on further trial prove superior. For a large and showy bunch, hardihood, easy or no culture, the Concord is, perhaps, unsurpassed. The vines also, on account of its rapid growth are now offered at a fair price, which ought to place it in every garden.

Hartford Prolific has the merit, like the Sage and Muscadine, of being very productive, ripening early, and of vigorous habit. They cannot be classed among the grapes better than second quality, in which class may be also reckoned the Diana seedling. They are, however, worthy of cultivation by those who have abundance of land and raise grapes for market, or who love the native aroma.

The Strawberry grape we cannot class with either of the above, although there many who do esteem it higher. We much prefer the Clinton, which ripens early, and is hardy enough to grow in any exposed position. Those who esteem this grape can find no one that will require less care, and no vine is so easy of propagation, or can be had of nurserymen at so low a price, as they are now sold "at prices that cannot fail to suit," as advertisers say. But there has been reason in asking from three to five dollars each for the Diana, Concord, and other new grape vines, when dealers could not make even ten per cent above the cost paid to the only individual that had them for sale. Such has been and doubtless will be the case with every new grape of real merit, yet we doubt if any one who planted a Concord four years ago, at a cost of five dollars, now regrets it.

Let every land holder plant grapes. If able, plant the one you, or your neighbors of most experience, consider best. If not able to plant the Concord when it was worth five dollars, plant it now when it can be had for one-fifth of the sum. If in these hard times you cannot afford so much for prospective profit and comfort from your immediate necessity, with your neighbors raise one-half or one-fourth the sum, and plant the best you can obtain for your money.

Portland, Nov. 5, 1857.

J. W. A.

Dr. Barlow published a case of an egg producing an insect eighty years after it must have been laid.

For the Maine Farmer. NORRIDGEWOCK CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR.

This exhibition was held on Wednesday, Oct. 14th. The morning was so rainy that many who thought that there would be no cattle present, but about eleven it began to clear away, and in came the oxen, cows, bulls, steers, heifers, calves, horses, colts, sheep, swine, poultry, corn, pumpkins, squashes, turnips, beets, carrots, &c., until there was hardly room enough to receive them. At two o'clock P. M., there were some four hundred head of cattle, among which were one hundred and fifty yoke of oxen, all worthy of notice. There were some fifty colts of the finest quality. In many instances the committees found it quite difficult to settle upon the preferences.

In consequence of the rain in the morning there was but little stock driven from the neighboring town. Smithfield sent a very handsome team of 15 yoke of oxen. Starter drove in a fine cow, and if it had been fair weather, Madison, Mercer and Fairfield would have been represented, and there would have been nearly double the stock present.

Don't you think, Doctor, as there were no premiums offered, that the farmers of Norridgewock have done the handsome thing, and not only best any County Society, but the State Society, even, in numbers at least?

Many good judges said they saw no nice cattle here as at the State Show, and many more of them. The farmers in this section are decidedly opposed to driving their cattle into an enclosure where the people cannot see them without their dime or two times and a half. Now, Doctor, we think you a right down good, common sense, practical, democratic man, and we want you to come up next year, Providence permitting, and we will show you that what we have done this year will be but as a few drops to a plentiful shower. The farmers here are determined that high fences, lady riding, and horse trotting shall not entirely eclipse the noble ox, the docile and obedient horse, and the gentle and worthy cow. While we like to see the ladies ride, the horses trot, and high fences in their places, we are opposed to so arranging them at these exhibitions, as practically to prevent what would be their legitimate results. Now, in Somerset, there are some very nice steers and oxen, perhaps as nice as there are in the State. I have one yoke in my mind at this time, owned by Mr. Fields, in Mercer, four years old last spring, handsome and quick, well matched, that measured eight feet and four or five inches. Another yoke of steers, owned by Mr. Cass, of Cornwall, three years old, measured about eight feet.

There is but little doubt that such stock as this would have been at the State Show, if a reasonable inducement had been offered. While the State Society pursues the present policy of expending thousands of dollars upon fair horses, and such other things of less merit or value, they need not expect to see the best stock of Maine at their shows, when they expend but hundreds for the ox, cow, and sheep. The intelligent farmers will submit to no such thing. The articles at the fair were numerous and worthy of notice, and a full report may be found in the Republican Clarion, of Skowhegan.

The committees made the following awards:—

Oxen. Best yoke six years old, 1st, Ezekiel Jones; 2d, Plummer Baker; 3d, Tom Spaulding.

Five years old, best, Samuel Taylor; 2d, G. F. Heald; 3d, Robert Hussey.

Four years old, best, H. Hight; 2d, C. R. Vaughan; 3d, O. Tinkham.

STEERS, BULLS AND CALVES. Three years old steers, best, D. Rogers; 2d, George Rogers; 3d, O. F. Heald; 4th, Amos Bixby. The steers exhibited by J. S. Bixby and S. Dinmore, compare favorably with the above.

Two years old steers, best, G. F. Heald; 2d, J. W. Bates; 3d, J. Butler; 4th, J. W. Gould.

Yearlings, best, D. A. Dineen; 2d, R. Hussey; 3d, S. D. Burgess; 4th, C. B. Baker.

Bulls, best, R. A. Davis; 2d, S. Potter.

Bull calves, best, E. W. Taylor; 2d, G. Rogers; 3d, D. A. Dineen; 4th, J. J. Tobey.

Cows and heifers. Cows, best, R. Hussey; 2d, C. R. Vaughan; 3d, L. Allen.

Two years old heifers, best, Charles Whiting; 2d, G. W. Barker.

Yearlings, best, J. Taylor; 2d, O. Tinkham.

Calves, best, S. Olin.

Horses. Family horses, best, C. R. Vaughan.

Four years old colts, best, Capt. Bell; 2d, E. R. Prescott; 3d, D. Taylor.

Three years old, best, G. Sturdevant; 2d, M. Wheeler; 3d, J. Sawyer.

Yearlings, best, J. Holbrook; 2d, S. Olin; 3d, J. Mitchell.

Five months old, best, J. B. Wood; 2d, W. Vaughan; 3d, G. Nutting.

SHEEP. Spanish buck, best, J. M. & A. Wood; 2d, A. Bixby and S. Dinmore.

Graded buck, best, (sheared 14 lbs. wool—one year's growth) A. Bixby; 2d, S. Dinmore; 3d, H. Wheeler.

J. M. Wood exhibited a fine buck, which sheared 10 1/2 lbs. wool.

Grade ewes, best, A. Bixby. Master Charles Jones exhibited a sheep and her twin lambs—fine animals.

INCIDENTALS. L. P. Butler, best 12 roved corn; 2d, R. Bixby. Capt. C. Heald, best 12 roved corn; 2d, G. W. Barker. Master Charles Vaughan, basket pot corn.

J. Boardman, cow hide boots. Mr. Cran, Congress and gaiter boots. Hale & Stevens, cart wheels; With-erly, horse shoes. Maj. Crosby, garden vegetables. L. Allen, Smithfield, potatoes. C. A. Bates, turnips. E. J. Peet and M. Cran, pumpkins. G. F. Moore, bantam hens—fine specimens. Squashes and other articles too numerous to mention—all fine specimens.

C. R. VAUGHAN, Secy.

NOVEL INVENTION. An experiment was tried in New York a few days since with a new safety fuse. The fuse was five hundred yards in length, and each end was attached to a cannon. One of the cannons was fired, and the other, although at such a distance, exploded without any apparent difference in time. Such velocity equals electricity. The inventors state that the great velocity of ignition, either when passing through air or water, render it a cheap substitute for the galvanic battery for many purposes.

TO CURB HOARSENESS. Take the whites of two eggs, and beat them with two spoonfuls of white sugar; grate in a little nutmeg; then add a pint of lukewarm water. Stir well, and drink often. Repeat the prescription if necessary, and it will cure the most obstinate case of hoarseness in a short time.

LIKE MARVEL'S ADDRESS TO FARMERS.

Donald G. Mitchell (like Marvel) recently delivered the annual address before the Connecticut State Agricultural Society. From a condensed report in the Hartford papers, we select the following admirable closing paragraphs:

"But there is something worth living for besides money. That is very good, but it is not all. With the rest, let us raise a crop of good ideas. While you are farmers, remember also that you are men, with duties and responsibilities. Live down the old brutal notion that a farmer must be unenough, uneducated and unthinking—a mere plodder."

You are brought into immediate contact with the great heart of civilization. You cannot get out of the reach of the buzz of the toiling world. The thrill of the wonder-working wires and the rumble of the locomotive, (the thunder tread of nations,) come to you on secluded hill-side.

Move toward a better life. Do not keep your boys from shelling all the long winter evenings. Make your farms a place that your sons and daughters cannot help loving. Cultivate the trees—they are God's messengers. Don't say that you care nothing for looks. You do care, else why did you build that two-story white house with blinds, and a cupola into which you never go? Or why did you, years ago, carefully brush your coat and pluck up your shirt-collar when you were starting, on a Sunday evening, to visit that good woman who now shares your home?

Care much for looks and pictures. Don't keep a solemn parlor into which you go but once a month with the parson, or the gossip of the sewing society. Hang around your walls pictures which shall tell stories of mercy, hope, courage, faith and charity. Make your living room the largest and most cheerful in the house. Let the place be such that when your boy has gone to distant lands, or even when, perhaps, he clings to a single plank in the lonely waters of the wide ocean, the thought of the old homestead shall come across the waters of desolation, bringing always light, hope and love.

Have no dungeons about your house—no rooms you never open—no blinds that are always shut. Don't teach your daughters French before they can weed a flower bed or cling to a side-saddle; and, daughters, do not be ashamed of the trowel or the pruning knife. Bring to your doors the richest flowers from the woods; cultivate the friendship of birds; scorn the scamp who levels his murderous gun at the blue bird or the robin. Study botany, learn to love nature, and seek a higher cultivation than the fashionable world would give you.

We may yet hope to rear a race of Connecticut people who shall take the prize at the World's Fair. I rejoice in our rugged hills; I envy no fertile West or sunny South. I love the State we live in; her rivers, hills and plains. I love her school-houses and churches. I love that sound of old ocean on her shore which brings us tidings from other lands.

A dark cloud now hangs over us, but I know of no spot where that cloud throws so light a shadow as on the farmers' homes of Connecticut. No panic of Wall street can frighten away the rains of summer or the life-giving warmth of the sun. All nature's promises are redeemed. In the winter at hand the song of the pine-tree shall be the G-d's voice to you, that in His own good time he will bring again the glad spring and the glorious summer."

THE BUTTER AND CHEESE. The value of these products is often underrated. The amount of butter reported in the census of 1850 was over 315,000,000 lbs. This at 20 cts. per lb., (the average wholesale price, a few days since, at New York,) would bring over \$63,000,000. The amount of cheese reported in the same census was over 100,000,000 lbs. This, at 10 cts. per lb., (also wholesale price at New York,) would bring more than \$10,000,000. The aggregate of both is \$73,000,000. Now the value of slaughtered animals, put down in the census, is \$109,000,000. So that the value of the butter and cheese is about two-thirds as great as that of the slaughtered animals in the whole country.

The cotton crop is stated in the same census to be 800,000,000 lbs. This, at 15 cts. per lb. (the wholesale price quoted at New York not long since,) would bring over \$120,000,000. Thus the butter and cheese of the country is worth more than one-half as much as the crop which is regarded as the staple of the entire South.

These rough estimates are full of interest to all who make or eat butter and cheese. They should impress all with the importance of improving the quality of these articles of food, in which the health and comfort of the consumer and the profit of the producer are so intimately concerned. When people come to know that rancid butter is as certainly poisonous as rancid tallow, they will be more cautious about eating it, and we trust about selling it. Much has to be learned yet in these matters. [Ohio Farmer.]

TO SAVE TOOLS, &c., FROM RUSTING. The following is an exceedingly simple, cheap and effective preparation, one available to all, which will at least save all metals from loss by rust.

Take about three pounds of lard and one pound of resin. Melt them together in a basin or kettle and rub over all iron or steel surfaces in danger of being rusted. It can be put on with a brush or piece of cloth, and wherever it is applied it most effectively keeps air and moisture away, and of course prevents rust. When knives and forks, or other household articles, liable to become rusted or spotted, are to be laid away, rub them over with this mixture, and they will come out bright and clean even years afterwards. The coating may be so thin as not to be perceived, and it will still be effective. Let every one keep a dish of this preparation on hand. As it does not spoil of itself it may be kept ready mixed for months or years. Mem. Fresh lard, containing no salt, should be used. Resin is a cheap article, and may be obtained almost anywhere for four or five cents per pound.

[American Agriculturist.]

The Albany Knickerbocker says that there is a man in Greenbush who believes in rotation of crops. One year he raises nothing, the next year wheat.

LINCOLN CO. AG. SOCIETY. AWARDS OF PREMIUMS.

At the Lincoln County Show and Fair, held at Waldoboro', on the 13th, 14th and 15th of October, the premiums and gratuities were awarded as follows:

HORSES AND COLTS. Entire horse, 1st prem, Dr. M. C. Hall, New Castle; 2d, Asa Keiser, Waldoboro'; 3d, W. Shuman, Waldoboro'.

Entire colts, 2 years old, 1st, Wm. G. Berry, Rockland; Wm. Sedgwick, Damariscotta.

Entire yearling colts, 1st, Alfred Besse, Washington; 2d, Roscoe Mitchell, Washington.

Two years old geldings, 1st, W. B. Hall, Nobleboro'; 2d, J. Moody, Jefferson.

Yearling geldings, 1st, Amos Flye, New Castle; 2d, G. E. Cummings, Union.

Colt with dam, 1st, John Viles, Jefferson.

Breeding mares, 1st, G. E. Cummings; 2d, William Adams, Waldoboro'; 3d, Amos Flye, New Castle.

Draught horse, 1st, John Leach, 2d, Waldoboro'.

Three years old geldings, 1st, Josiah Chapman, Nobleboro'; 2d, John Viles, Jefferson; Geo. E. Hatch, Jefferson.

Four years old geldings, John Slater, Washington.

Family horses, 1st, John T. Berry, Rockland; 2d, I. French, Waldoboro'; G. E. Baker, New Castle; David Martin, Broom, each a gratuity.

COWS AND HEIFERS. Dairy cows, 1st, Geo. Farthing, Waldoboro'; 2d, Jacob W. Kaler, Waldoboro'; 3d, Benj. Weeks, Jefferson. T. J. Simmons, Waldoboro', gratuity.

Stock cows, 2d, Benj. Weeks, Jefferson. Alex. Gilden, Jefferson;—D. Harding, Union, each a gratuity.

Milk cows, 2d, A. H. Wyman, Jefferson. David Hussey, Nobleboro', gratuity.

Two years old heifers, 1st, W. Weeks, Jefferson; 2d, A. W. Partridge, Nobleboro'; 3d, E. Farman, Jefferson.

Yearling heifers, 1st, Henry Fassett, Union. J. W. Kaler, Waldoboro', gratuity.

TOWN TEAMS. 1st, town of Union.

DEER CATTLE. 1st, Joseph Ludwig, Waldoboro'; 2d, Moses Hawes, Union.

Fat cows, 1st, Sewall Weeks, Jefferson.

BULLS AND BULL CALVES. 1st, J. G. Huston, Damariscotta; 2d, L. M. Kennedy, Jefferson.

Bull calf, 1st, David Harding, Union; 2d, L. M. Kennedy, Jefferson.

Bull 16 months old, 1st, H. Erskine, New Castle; 2d, A. H. Wyman, Jefferson.

WORKING OXEN. 1st, T. J. Simmons, Waldoboro'; 2d, Newell Hall, Nobleboro'; 3d, G. W. Morse, Union. John Dodge, Jefferson;—Daniel Hall, 3d, Nobleboro', each a gratuity.

STEERS. Three years old steers, 1st, Thomas Pelton, Washington; 2d, Chas. Engley, Nobleboro'. H. W. Partridge, Jefferson;—John Light, Nobleboro', each a gratuity.

Two years old steers, 1st, Capt. Benjamin Weeks, Jefferson; 2d, Eben Farman, Jefferson. Albert W. Partridge, Nobleboro', gratuity.

Yearling steers, 1st, N. P. Bemis, Union; 2d, John Viles, Jefferson.

PLOWING. Best plowing with 4 oxen, 1st, J. Dodge, Jefferson; 2d, J. G. Huston, Damariscotta.

Best do. with 1 yoke oxen, 1st, J. Dodge, Jefferson.

SHEEP, SWINE AND POULTRY. Buck, 1st, E. Weeks, Jefferson; 2d, W. Denner, Waldoboro'. Jacob Hofes, Waldoboro', gratuity.

Best flock of sheep, 10 in number, 1st, M. G. McCurdy, Washington; 2d, Jacob Hofes, Waldoboro'; 3d, J. Dodge, Jefferson.

Hogs, 1st, A. Palmer, Waldoboro'; R. Burket, Waldoboro', gratuity.

Hens, 1st, T. J. Simmons, Waldoboro'. K. B. Wood, Jefferson, bantam hen and chickens, gratuity. Robert Fox, 1st, John Viles, Jefferson, gratuity.

Turkeys, 1st, W. M. Sprule, Nobleboro'; 2d, Thos. Simmons.

FIELD CROPS. Corn, 1st, D. Trask, Jr., Jefferson; 2d, Eben Hall, Jefferson; 3d, Lyman H. Winslow, Nobleboro'; 4th, Levi Vaughan, Warren; 5th, H. W. Partridge, Jefferson.

Wheat, 1st, John Viles, Jefferson; 2d, H. G. McCurdy, Washington; 3d, Isabella Jones, Warren. Daniel Day, Damariscotta.

Oats, 1st, C. Schweil, Waldoboro'; 2d, John Viles, Jefferson. H. W. Partridge, Jefferson, gratuity.

Hens, 1st, H. H. Winslow, Nobleboro'; 2d, E. Hall, Jefferson. E. Hall, specimen black eyed do., gratuity.

ROOTS AND VEGETABLES. Potatoes, 1st, J. C. Cutting, Warren; 2d, A. Starrett, Warren; 3d, R. Eggs, Waldoboro'.

Carrots, John Viles, Jefferson. John Leach, Waldoboro', gratuity.

Cabbages, 1st, Samuel Ripley, Washington; 2d, T. J. Simmons, Waldoboro'. G. A. Storor, gratuity.

Ruta bags turnips, 1st, L. M. Kennedy, Jefferson. J. C. Buxner, Nobleboro', gratuity.

Black Hamburg grapes, 1st, B. D. Metcalf, Damariscotta; 2d, John Currier. J. G. Huston, Damariscotta, gratuity.

CARRIAGES AND HARNESS. Two wheeled chair, 1st, C. Wingate & Co., Union.

Fancy buggy, 1st, Adams & Allen, Thomaston.

Chaise harness, Adams & Allen, Thomaston.

Elliptic springs, C. Wingate & Co., gratuity.

Footstool, C. L. Webb, New Castle, gratuity.

Pong, John Currier, gratuity.

Buggy harness, 1st, Adams & Allen, Thomaston.

Fancy wagon, 1st, C. Wingate, Union; 2d, Adams & Allen, Thomaston.

DAIRY PRODUCTS. June butter, 1st, Mrs. T. Simmons, Waldoboro'; 2d, Mrs. John F. Ames, Jefferson; 3d, Mrs. J. G. Borsman, Waldoboro'.

September butter, 1st, Mrs. T. J. Simmons; 2d, Mrs. Wm. Denner, Waldoboro'; 3d, Mrs. J. W. Vaughan, Warren.

Butter made by girls less than 18 years of age, 1st, Miss Maria Leonard, Warren; 2d, Daniel A. Benner, Nobleboro'. Miss Mary A. Leach, Warren;—D. A. Benner, each a gratuity.

Cheese, 1st, Mrs. J. W. Vaughan; 2d, James Russell, Warren; 3d, Mrs. Wm. T. Waterman, Waldoboro'.

Rye and Indian bread, 1st, Miss S. F. Simmons; 2d, Mrs. J. Jones, Warren.

Wheat bread, 1st, Miss Martha Currier; 2d, Miss C. Currier, Waldoboro'.



THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 19, 1857.

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND HOUSEHOLD PAPER.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

"Thanksgiving, indeed!" says the grumbler: "little we have to be thankful for, this year!" Is it so? Have we, then, no special reasons for thankfulness to the giver of all good things? Are not bountiful crops, good health, freedom from epidemics as a community, and general national prosperity, sufficient cause, were there no other, for a day of general thanksgiving? To be sure, we are all of us suffering, in a measure, from the prevailing monetary pressure, but, as some offset for that, provisions and rents are falling, and are already much lower than for some time past. The crops, notwithstanding the cold season, were good, and in some of the Western States so abundant that the farmers could not harvest them, for lack of help. The prospect of easier times in the money market is brightening, and the New York banks, upon whose resumption of specie payment depends that of all the other banks which have joined in the general suspension, have already taken the first step in that direction. Have we not, then, as a people, cause, and great cause for rejoicing? And has not each individual, if he will but candidly consider his position, and reflect how much worse it might have been, and how many means of support are still available, reason for faithfully observing, in the true spirit of the word, our day of thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving Day is a New England festival. It was first observed, under somewhat peculiar circumstances. The winter of 1630 was one of great hardship to the early settlers of Massachusetts. The preceding summer there had been great sickness among the colonists, and by the close of the year the deaths exceeded two hundred. The winter commenced with great severity, and their houses being mostly very poor, and the settlers unaccustomed to such severities, the people suffered greatly from the cold, many being frozen to death. The stock of provisions began to fail, and many were obliged to subsist on shell-fish, ground-nuts, and acorns, which were only procured with great difficulty at this season of the year. Goodrich, in his history of the United States, from which we abridge these facts, says:—"In consideration of their perilous condition, the sixth day of February (1631) was appointed a day of public fasting and prayer, to seek deliverance from God. On the fifth of February, the day before the appointed fast, the ship, Lion, which had been sent to England for supplies, arrived laden with provisions. She had a stormy passage, and reached the harbor with a great quantity of provisions. These provisions were distributed among the people, according to their necessities, and their appointed fast exchanged for a day of general thanksgiving."

Another author, we cannot now find the source of the extract before us, gives us the following account of the origin of Thanksgiving Day:—"When New England was first planted, the settlers met with many difficulties and hardships, and it was necessary for them to establish themselves in a wilderness country. Being poorly supplied, they sought relief from heaven, by laying their wants and troubles before the Lord in frequent acts of fasting and prayer. Constant meditation, and discourses on the subject of their difficulties, kept their minds gloomy and discontented, and, like the children of Israel, they were ready to return to the land which persecution had determined them to abandon."

At length, when it was proposed in the assembly to celebrate another fast, a farmer of plain sense rose and remarked, that the inconveniences they had suffered, and concerning which they had so often wept and fasted, were not so great as might have been expected, and were diminishing every day as the colony strengthened; that the earth began to reward their labors, and to furnish liberally for their sustenance; that the seas and rivers were full of fish, the air sweet, the climate wholesome; and that it would be more becoming the gratitude they owed to the Divine Being, if instead of a fast, they should proclaim a thanksgiving. His advice was taken; and from that day to this, they have been celebrating the anniversary of public happiness, sufficient to furnish employment for a thanksgiving day."

So much for the origin of our beloved festival. The joyous members of the family party, as they are seated at the bounteous feast, would, perhaps, better appreciate the blessings which they now enjoy, were they to reflect on the Thanksgiving of 1631 and that of 1857. The first, a rejoicing for delivery from the most horrible form of death—starvation; the second, a returning of thanks for a bounteous harvest, and the prosperity of a nation whose power and influence extends farther than the wildest dreams of our forefathers ever prophesied, and whose government offers an asylum for the poor and oppressed of all nations. Verily, we are a favored people!

But one word, we conclude. "The poor ye have always with you," says the sacred writer. Let us remember them, in our prosperity, and give freely, according to our means. Thus shall Thanksgiving Day be made a source of increased happiness to ourselves, and a day of rejoicing to those who may receive of our bounty.

GOOD THREAD. The article of good thread is one that is daily appreciated and greatly desired by all good housewives. Mr. Jonathan T. Ellis, agent for the Wheeler & Wilson sewing machines mentioned last week, supplies a first rate article, manufactured by the Williamson Company, Conn., which, from trial, we can pronounce the very article which every seamstress should have. Mr. E. will supply any color or number desired, at very reasonable rates. Call at Fenno's, and get the thread, and also examine the sewing machines.

THANKSGIVING BALL. There will be a grand Thanksgiving Ball, at North's Hall, on Wednesday evening, 18th. This is the first party in this splendid hall, and we hope it will be well filled. Good music, and a good time will be enjoyed by all who attend. As thanksgiving, like the fourth of July, "comes but once a year," it behooves those who intend to observe all the festivities of the occasion, to secure their ticket for the grand torchlight procession of the new hall.

REDUCING EXPENSES. Several of the leading railroads in New England are reducing their expenses by taking off some of their extra trains. Travel is small, and a less number of trains will accommodate all who wish to ride by them. The Eastern, Boston & Maine, and Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroads are among the number. The latter road takes off the train from Portland to So. Paris, and will run but one train each way daily, leaving Portland at 1 P. M. and arriving there at 2 P. M.

THANKSGIVING. To the list of States, &c., which have appointed Thanksgiving, we have, this week, added Kentucky, Illinois and Texas, whose Governors have issued on the 26th inst. The Mayor and Council of the city of Washington, have appointed the 26th as a day of thanksgiving in that city.

POPULAR FEVERS.

The experience of those who have lived any considerable length of time—say half a century, demonstrates that societies and communities have their fevers as well as individuals. Solomon's saying, that "for everything there is a season and a time," is based upon this fact.

Almost every one knows that it is almost impossible to effect any great public enterprise, or a private one either, until the minds of those whose aid is required to accomplish it are prepared, are lighted up and made "feverish" on the subject. Sometimes, when the social system or constitution seems to be in a peculiar state of fit, either from direct or remote causes, the "fever" is induced easily, and the project goes forward with a "rush," as the saying is. At other times there seems to be a resisting influence which wards off all attempts to induce any enthusiasm or spirit of the thing for years and years, when, all of a sudden, the project is seized upon and goes like wild fire, every body goes into it, and exerts himself to his utmost to have it accomplished.

Sometimes these "fevers" are productive of public good, though individuals may suffer. The "Railroad fever," which has heretofore prevailed, is of this class. There seemed to be a time and a season to accomplish these improvements. A few years previous to its commencement—all the writing and argument—all the talking, and preaching, and solicitation could be had started on it, and at length the time and the season for it came, and everybody was anxious to see stock, and everybody wanted a railroad laid by his own door. Individuals have suffered loss by these operations, but the public, as a whole, has been benefited. The Western land fever and its concomitant gambling operations is an instance of the other kind, where a few individuals may have been peculiarly benefited, but the public generally been greatly damaged. A few years ago the public could not have been brought into such a feverish excitable state, and consequent collapsed condition as they have just passed and are now passing through.

But the time and season came when circumstances enabled designing and scheming men, and unprincipled speculators to operate upon the public constitution or system, and, like the malaria in the natural world which light up autumnal fever, and other diseases in our physical system, they worked all sorts of disorders.

We see a similar principle evident in the history of improvements, in almost every department of science and art. The steam engine, for instance, was for a long series of years, a philosophical play thing, rude experiments of bursting tubes by heated water were exhibited merely to demonstrate the tremendous power of expansive steam. In process of time rude engines were made with enormously large pistons, which were pushed up by the power of steam, the steam then cooled or condensed by a jet of water, and the pistons brought down by their own weight and the pressure of the atmosphere. The time and the season then came, and circumstances brought Watt into contact with a model of the engine, who conceived the idea of applying steam alternately to each side of the piston, and thereby effected a vast improvement.

This was used for years, until the times and seasons brought Oliver Evans in contact with the engine, who conceived it useless to be conveying the steam off into a reservoir to be condensed as in the low pressure system, and therefore made his engine to work with very high steam, and to let it fly into the air when it had done its office, as in the high pressure engine of the present day.

So also, in the history of the steamboat, we see Fitch and others laboring away a whole life time to establish the steamboat, but without success. The time and season was not quite come, the fever was not yet up—they might be considered as remote exciting causes of it, but it was not until Fulton's day, a little after, that it got fairly started and began to run its course.

REBECCA GRAPE. We have received from our friend, J. W. Adams of the Portland Nurseries, a specimen bunch of the Rebecca Grape. Our readers will remember that this is a new seedling which originated in Hudson, N. Y., from seed planted by Mrs. Rebecca Peake. We published a cut of this grape and full description in No. 19 (April 20th), of the current volume. This grape has a beautiful white berry with a thin skin, very much resembling some of the foreign grapes in form, size, and taste. The pulp is sweet and melting, and of excellent flavor. The vine has hitherto proved hardy and the fruit ripens earlier than the Isabella, indeed some say earlier than the Diana. If any of our friends feel disposed to cultivate this variety, and we advise them to, let us all to do so, they can obtain a supply of J. W. Adams, Portland.

MAINE STATE SEMINARY. The first catalogue of the Maine State Seminary, Lewiston, is before us. The number of students for the first term was 137—of whom 38 were gentlemen, and 54 ladies. The course of studies covers four years, and is thorough and extensive. Rev. Oren B. Cheney, formerly of this city, is the Principal and there are seven assistants in the various departments. The winter term commences on the 24th inst., at which time one-half of the Seminary Boarding hall will be opened for the reception of students.

SALE OF MALAGA FRUIT. On Thursday last, the cargo of brig Volunteer, was sold at auction, in Portland. The Portland Advertiser gives the following account of prices, &c.:—There was a large attendance at the sale, and the bidding was quite spirited, most of the fruit being sold to the city dealers, at prices ranging as follows: Lemons \$1.00 to \$2.50 per box; oranges, \$1.92 to \$2.00; figs 75c to 84c; layer raisins, \$2.25 to \$2.50; black raisins, \$1.74 to \$1.85—quarter boxes, 70c; bunch raisins, \$2.00 per half box; \$1.20—quarter boxes, 62c; dried raisins, 8c per lb.

THE WEEKLIES. During the approaching session of Legislature, the proprietors of the Journal and Age will each issue a tri-weekly paper, with full reports of the doings of our legislators. Terms of each, \$1.00 for the session. As they are issued on alternate days, by subscribing for both one may receive a daily report of the doings at the capital.

DROWNED. Joseph Hume, aged about 12, fell into the canal near the lock, at the east end of Kennebec Dam, on Sunday, and was drowned before assistance could be rendered.

IS ADVANCE. We issue our paper this week some hours in advance of the usual time, to give our hands a chance to keep Thanksgiving. Several articles, prepared for this week, are necessarily deferred.

A METEOR. A meteorite was supposed to be that of a meteor, has been found on River Road, near Marblehead. The Journal's correspondent says:—"The substance, when found, was in one solid mass, and covered a space of eight or ten feet in diameter. It was probably in a fluid state when it struck the earth. The substance is of a dark color and resembles scoria, or molten iron after cooling. The surface is perfectly smooth, and is covered with globules of different size, which had apparently been fired off by the pressure of the vapor below. The under surface of the mass is porous. On being broken it emits a strong sulphurous smell. It is in no way affected by acids. The mass weighed from six to eight hundred pounds."

GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS, &c.

One of the Effects. The receipts from passengers on the Boston & Worcester Railroad, during the last month, as compared with the corresponding month last year, show a falling off of over \$20,000.

Bank Enjoined. Daniel Lewis, Conn., Nov. 12. The Granite Bank of Voluntown, is enjoined by Judge Butler, and a Receiver appointed. The Bank is a bogus concern. It has a circulation of \$23,000, and a nominal capital of \$100,000.

Liberty of the Press. The Hamilton (Canada) Mercantile Library Association, and the Montreal Reading Rooms, have banished Harper's Magazine, on account of an article which appeared in the November number, and advertising upon Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The occasion of the article was the Queen's treatment of Mr. Dickens.

Freshet on the Susquehanna. Williamsport, Nov. 10. The Susquehanna river at this point has risen ten feet, and is still rising. The water in the river here has overflowed the Erie Railroad bridge, and it is feared it will be carried away. The track at Corning is washed away, and the place inundated. A number of buildings have been washed away.

Rumor of 500 Troops Killed by Indians. Chicago, Nov. 10. Mr. Williamson, correspondent of the St. Paul's Times, writing from Payette on the 25th, says a report had reached there that 500 U. S. troops supposed to be a detachment of the Utah expedition, had been attacked and killed by a large party of Teutonian Indians, near the Missouri river. Mr. Williamson believes this report.

A Slave Refused to be Free. On Monday of last week, "Betty," the slave of Louis Street, was brought before Chief Justice Shaw of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, on a writ of habeas corpus, alleging that she was restrained of her freedom. She denied this and refused her liberty, whereupon the case was dismissed and Betty went back with her master and mistress to Tennessee, where her husband, a freeman, and her children reside.

Mormons Manufacturing Pistols. A manufacturer has been in operation at Salt Lake for the past seven months, turning out two hundred revolvers per week. They have excellent workmen and abundant material. In case they should desire to enter into conflict with the troops, they are well furnished with the means, and it is thought that the Indians will unite forces with them.

Bank Robbery. Goshen, N. Y., Nov. 11. The Goshen Bank was robbed last night of \$30,000 in bills, and upwards of \$2000 in specie.

The Pacific. The Norwalk Gazette is inclined to believe the Paris hoax of the bottle from the Pacific steamer, which was dated April 1st, and signed "Smith." That paper says the ship, on board was Legrand Smith of that village, and that the act was precisely such a one as would come from him. It is intended to send to Paris for the ship, that it may be ascertained whether it is his handwriting.

Fire in Waldo. The dwelling house, barn and out buildings of Aaron M. Hadley of Waldo was wholly consumed by fire on Sunday morning last. Origin of the fire unknown. Loss \$2500, which falls heavily on Mr. Hadley, who is a hard working, industrious man.

The St. John, N. B. Murders. On Friday, 6th inst., Brown and Slavin and his son, charged with the murder of Robert McKenzie, his wife and four children, near St. John, N. B., were arraigned before the court, when Brown pleaded guilty, the elder Slavin said he was "not clear" of the murders, and the younger Slavin pleaded not guilty. The prisoners were then committed to trial.

St. John, N. B., Nov. 13. Brown and Slavin, the murderers of the McKenzie family, have been sentenced to be hung on the 11th of December next. Slavin, Jr., was likewise found guilty and his sentence is to be passed hereafter.

Flouring Mill Burnt. A great Watford, N. Y., on Wednesday, destroyed the extensive flouring mill of Morse, Eddy & Co., together with the storehouse attached and its contents. Ten thousand bushels of wheat and four hundred barrels of flour were in the storehouse. The loss amounts to about \$35,000. The insurance is \$10,000 on the stock, and \$9000 on the building.

Conundrum for the Times. Why was Pharaoh's daughter like a brook? Because she got a little prophet from the rushes on the banks.

Loss of Population. The diminution of population of Manchester, N. H., since the depression of business, is estimated at 3000. The reduction of labor in mechanical and miscellaneous businesses, outside of the corporations, has been greater than in the mills.

Longevity. The Argus mentions an interesting spectacle that was presented at a wedding which took place in this city on the 3d inst. The four grand-parents of the bride were present, whose united ages amounted 334 years, and they were married to each other sixty years ago. They are still hale and hearty.

CHERRING NEWS FROM NEW YORK. New York, Oct. 14. Our money market closes for the week with many weeks. The business at the stock board has been quite large, sales for the week footing up to nearly nine millions of dollars, with quite a large description on all descriptions. The money market has been amply supplied at rates tending continually downward. Our banks were never in a stronger position than at present, their specie on hand reaching fully, it is believed, to eighteen millions, and it is said the immediate resumption of specie payment was one of the topics of discussion at the meeting held this afternoon.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE. The Navy Department has despatches from Captain Hudson of the U. S. Frigate Niagara, dated Plymouth, England, Oct. 25. He writes that they are at work on the night landing the telegraph cable into a large wooden tank 101 feet in length and forty wide, divided into four compartments. The whole wire from the Niagara and Agamemnon is to be stored in two separate coils.

Six hundred miles of it has already been stored from the Niagara, and they hope to complete the work during the succeeding week.

The Company's engineer is now engaged with a steamer in an attempt to recover the lost wire.

[Washington Star.]

FROM SAN DOMINGO. From San Domingo official reports have been received to the effect that General Parmentier, commanding the government troops, had routed the Cayan revolutionists at Savanah-Rou, with great loss to the latter and very few casualties to his own command. The government militia on the north coast had fired on a group of men assembled near Matanzas. The country was a prey to anarchy, and confusion existed everywhere. The American settlers on the Bahama peninsula were about to leave in consequence. It was thought that in the end the Dominican republic would fall under the rule of the Haytiens.

SHARP PERSECUTION BY A BOSTON MURDERER. A few months ago, during a fight in Boston, a man was seriously injured that he died in a short time. He was probably in a fluid state when it struck the earth. The substance is of a dark color and resembles scoria, or molten iron after cooling. The surface is perfectly smooth, and is covered with globules of different size, which had apparently been fired off by the pressure of the vapor below. The under surface of the mass is porous. On being broken it emits a strong sulphurous smell. It is in no way affected by acids. The mass weighed from six to eight hundred pounds."

KANSAS NEWS.

St. Louis, Nov. 12. The Lecompton correspondence of the Republican says that a majority of the Convention, headed by Calhoun, Moore, and Henderson, propose to submit the Constitution to the people in the following form, viz: A Constitution with slavery, and a Constitution without slavery—the vote to be taken about the 20th of December, and every actual resident at that time to be allowed to vote.

The Lawrence correspondent of the Democrat says that the Constitution Convention would probably adjourn on the 7th, and that the Constitution will endorse the Dred Scott decision, the fugitive slave law, etc. A proposition for the establishment of a Provisional Government was before the Convention, and the Convention passed only four dissenting votes. This clause is the only one which will be submitted to the people, so that no chance is given to vote down the Constitution.

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